

Williamsburg Receiving and Storage (WRS) Compliance Chronology

July 5, 2000 – Surface Water Quality Division (SWQD) issues an NPDES Permit to WRS for the discharge of treated contact cooling water to Tobeco Creek.

July 14, 2000 - Waste Management Division (WMD) and SWQD staff inspect WRS, in response to complaints from neighbors. Staff find cherry brine discharges to the ground and whole cherries in the cooling water discharge. Staff also observe solid waste (pallets and cardboard) being open burned in the parking lot.

July 27, 2000 – As a result of the July 14, 2000 inspection, SWQD sends WRS a Notice Letter citing NPDES permit violations and brine spillage and requesting a work plan to correct problems by August 18, 2000.

August 11, 2000 – As a result of the July 14, 2000 inspection, WMD sends WRS a Letter of Warning (LOW). The Low cites WRS for discharging without a permit (Hubbel had been irrigating), Part 5 rule violations for spillage of brine and lack of containment, and open burning solid waste.

August 15, 2000 – WRS responds to SWQD by denying discharge of brine or solid cherries, but agreeing to institute changes to prevent the possibility of such a discharge.

September 8, 2000 – WRS responds to WMD LOW via their attorney. Letter commits to no open burning or further discharge without a permit. WRS does not address Part 5 violations.

September 13, 2000 – IWMD letter requests response to Part 5 issues by September 30, 2000.

September, 2000 - Attorney for Williamsburg Receiving contacts WMD staff to report brine storage area is now empty. Indictes modifications will be made before the next season.

October 3, 2000 – SWQD staff meet with WRS to discuss 8/11/00 Notice Letter and changes to be made to prevent future discharges.

December 18, 2000 – SWQD sends letter documenting activities to be done to prevent brine and solids discharges to the ground and cooling water outfall.

January 5, 2001 – SWQD staff document unpermitted discharge to Tobeco Creek. Water from lagoon constructed to hold groundwater discharge water (constructed without MDEQ review or permit) is backflowing into transfer

structure which allow the lagoon water to discharge to the swamp. Samples show chlorides at 2070 ppm.

February 16, 2001 – SWQD staff inspectsWRS. NPDES permit violations noted. Sump and outfall sampling by SWQD staff.

February 23, 2001 - SWQD sends second Notice Letter for unpermitted discharge documented on 2/16/01.

February 27, 2001 - Ball Environmental, representing neighbors, submits sampling data to SWQD that shows high COD and BOD in WRS discharge. Chlorides not sampled.

March 19, 2001 - Meeting with SWQD, WMD field staff with Whitewater Township, Grand Traverse County commissioner, Road Commissioners, and Drain Commissioners regarding complaints of water handling and drainage problems. Most of the issues are related to the ditching and stormwater runoff.

April 24, 2001 - Public meeting is held on draft Groundwater Discharge Permit for process waster from WRS.

April 25, 2001 - Groundwater Permit issued. WMD staff receives phone calls shortly after this from WRS requesting permission to begin spray irrigating.

May 23, 2001 - WRS receives QMR forms from Susan Anderson (based on certified mail receipts.)

Monitoring reports submitted quarterly. The first quarter would be due July 15, 2001. (Not received.)

June 19, 2001 - Joint inspection conducted by WMD and SWQD staff. Odors noted. Irrigation has lowered the lagoon depth. Discussed eliminating the lagoon in order to avoid odors. WRS indicates he plans to modify his operation to irrigate fields directly from a smaller pump area. Also viewed additional potential irrigation sites.

June 25, 2001 - Operation and maintenance manual due from WRS. This manual has not been received. In addition, no written notification 10 days before start up has been received, as required by the permit.

June 26, 2001 - LOW from WMD for odor violations.

July 15, 2001 – QMR due for 3rd quarter. Although WRS received forms on May 23, 2001, no report filred.

July 21, 2001 - Open burning complaint received from neighbors (letter and photos). Photos show large fire in a waste dumpster.

August 1, 2001 – Ball Environmental, representing neighbors, submits data showing up to 19,400 ppm of chlorides in discharge from WRS to Tobeco Swamp.